symptoms or complaints;

(b) recording the one or more symptoms or complaints in computer memory;

(c) selecting one or more specific questions in response to the receipt of preliminary patient information, and transmitting the one or more specific questions to at least one of the patient and a medical practitioner;

(d) receiving specific patient information in response to the one or more specific questions;

(e) arranging the preliminary patient information and specific patient information into a formatted report;

(f) retrieving at least one proposed treatment strategy and/or medical assessment based upon the formatted report, and incorporating the proposed treatment strategy and/or medical assessment into the formatted report to generate a proposed medical report;

(g) transmitting the proposed medical report to a physician;

(h) receiving an edited medical report from the physician which modifies and/or adds information to the proposed medical report; and

(i) storing the edited medical report in computer memory with the patient identifier.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein step (d) further includes the steps of selecting one or more follow-up questions based upon the received specific patient information, and receiving further patient information in response to the follow-up questions, so as to provide question branching capabilities wherein a sequence of relevant questions are selected and patient information is collected..

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the follow-up questions are unimodal.

-2-

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the follow-up questions are selected based upon at least one of (a) a patient's level of education, (b) a patient's age, (c) a patient's gender, (d) a patient's ethnicity, and (e) a patient's socioeconomic background.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein at least one of the specific questions or at least one of the follow-up questions include a triage question to highlight one or more areas of immediate concern.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein at least one of the specific questions or at least one of the follow-up questions include a screening question that covers a health issue.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein step (d) further includes the step of generating concatenated text strings from the received specific patient information and the received further patient information.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the concatenated text strings are used to generate one or more confirmation messages, the confirmation messages being transmitted to at least one of a patient and a medical practitioner, by which the patient and/or the medical practitioner can either confirm or deny receipt of correct specific patient information and/or correct further patient information.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the concatenated text strings are used to generate audio and/or voice signals which are then transmitted to at least one of a patient and a medical practitioner.

16. The method of claim 7 wherein step (e) further includes the step of analyzing the formatted report in real time using Boolean logic based upon expert-determined criteria for identifying at least one of symptom complexes and interrelated medical problems.

17. The method of claim 8 wherein the follow-up questions are provided using an interactive graphical interface customized for a given patient based upon at least one of received specific patient information and received further patient information.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the interactive graphical interface includes multimedia elements selected from the group consisting of: (a) images, (b) sound, (c) video clips, and (d) animations.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the interactive graphical user interface includes a touch-screen computer monitor.

20. The method of claim 17 further including the steps of receiving further patient information in voice form and electronically recording the further patient information.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of analyzing further includes the step of applying a quality-of-life assessment to at least one of the received specific patient information and received further patient information so as to provide a predicted assessment of the proposed treatment strategy.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the quality-of-life assessment considers at least one of frequency of symptoms, severity of symptoms, and disruption of functions and activities of daily living.

CLEAN VERSION OF CLAIMS

7. A computer-executable iterative method of managing physician-patient interactions, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving preliminary patient information including a patient identifier and one or more symptoms or complaints;

(b) recording the one or more symptoms or complaints in computer memory;

(c) selecting one or more specific questions in response to the receipt of preliminary patient information, and transmitting the one or more specific questions to at least one of the patient and a medical practitioner;

(d) receiving specific patient information in response to the one or more specific questions;

(e) arranging the preliminary patient information and specific patient information into a formatted report;

(f) retrieving at least one proposed treatment strategy and/or medical assessment based upon the formatted report, and incorporating the proposed treatment strategy and/or medical assessment into the formatted report to generate a proposed medical report;

(g) transmitting the proposed medical report to a physician;

(h) receiving an edited medical report from the physician which modifies and/or adds information to the proposed medical report; and

(i) storing the edited medical report in computer memory with the patient identifier.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein step (d) further includes the steps of selecting one or more follow-up questions based upon the received specific patient information, and receiving further patient information in response to the follow-up questions, so as to provide question branching capabilities wherein a sequence of relevant questions are selected and patient information is collected.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the follow-up questions are unimodal.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the follow-up questions are selected based upon at least one of: (a) a patient's level of education, (b) a patient's age, (c) a patient's gender, (d) a patient's ethnicity, and (e) a patient's socioeconomic background.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein at least one of the specific questions or at least one of the follow-up questions include a triage question to highlight one or more areas of immediate concern.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein at least one of the specific questions or at least one of the follow-up questions include a screening question that covers a health issue.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein step (d) further includes the step of generating concatenated text strings from the received specific patient information and the received further patient information.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the concatenated text strings are used to generate one or more confirmation messages, the confirmation messages being transmitted to at least one of a patient and a medical practitioner, by which the patient and/or the medical practitioner can either confirm or deny receipt of correct specific patient information and/or correct further patient information.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the concatenated text strings are used to generate audio and/or voice signals which are then transmitted to at least one of a patient and a medical practitioner.

16. The method of claim 7 wherein step (e) further includes the step of analyzing the formatted report in real time using Boolean logic based upon expert-determined criteria for identifying at least one of symptom complexes and interrelated medical problems.

17. The method of claim 8 wherein the follow-up questions are provided using an interactive graphical interface customized for a given patient based upon at least one of received specific patient information and received further patient information.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the interactive graphical interface includes multimedia elements selected from the group consisting of: (a) images, (b) sound, (c) video clips, and (d) animations.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the interactive graphical user interface includes a touch-screen computer monitor.

20. The method of claim 17 further including the steps of receiving further patient information in voice form and electronically recording the further patient information.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of analyzing further includes the step of applying a quality-of-life assessment to at least one of the received specific patient information and received further patient information so as to provide a predicted assessment of the proposed treatment strategy.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the quality-of-life assessment considers at least one of frequency of symptoms, severity of symptoms, and disruption of functions and activities of daily living.